Annual Grants to Shia and Sunni Wakf Boards

*316. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shia and Sunni Wakf Boards arc given annual grants from Government;

(b) if so, since when such grants were started;

(c) the quantum of grants given each year since its inception to the Shia and Sunni Wakf Boards till date; and

(d) in case the grants have increased in any year the reasons for such increase in that year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The Central Government docs not implement any scheme for providing annual grant to the State Wakf Boards.

As per the provision of the Wakf Act, 1995, functioning of the Wakf Boards including financial matters is looked into by the State Government concerned, who maintain the relevant information in this regard.

Transmission of HIV/AIDS Virus

*317. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a programme for the prevention of the transmission of HIV/AIDS virus from mother to child;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the Budget allocation for the current fiscal year; and

(d) by when, the programme is likely to be functional?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Government of India has already initiated a feasibility study on prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV infection in 11 centers in the country with the objective to assess the operational feasibility of administration of Zidovudine (AZT) to prevent mother to child transmission of